



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

JAN - 8 2004

Indian Health Service
California Area Office
650 Capitol Mall - 7th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

TO: Executive Directors
California Tribal Clinics

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2003 User Population Estimates

The Information Technology Support Center (ITSC) in Albuquerque has released the Draft FY 2003 Active User Population Reports and made them available to our office for your review. These reports document the number of Indian Active Users by Service Unit (tribal service area) as of September 30, 2003. An Indian Active User is a patient who is registered as an Indian in the IHS Patient Registration System and who has had a direct care, contract care, inpatient or dental visit after September 30, 2000. That patient must also live within your tribal service area. If the patient has registered at more than one tribal clinic within the three-year period (October 1, 2000 through September 30, 2003), your clinic must be the last place where they were registered in order to count toward your total.

These estimates are based on the current active user definition that was approved by the "Tribal and Indian Health Service User Population Work Group II". The definition requires that these estimates be based on place of residence and the user is counted where he/she resides, not where service is obtained. The definition also requires that users who reside outside CHSDA's not be counted in user population estimates. However, the number such non-CHSDA users can be identified and may be considered in any resource allocation decision, as determined by the decision-making group.

I would like to commend your staff for the excellent work that they have done to help us achieve our goal of producing draft user population estimates for review by this date. This effort could not have succeeded without the active participation of your information systems specialists and staff.

The Draft FY 2003 Indian User Population Estimate will be used as the Final FY 2003 Active User Population Estimate for each tribal program, unless you can provide verifiable documentation as to why the active user count should be changed. Your response must relate to the attached Active User Population Report results, as they are taken directly from the IHS Patient Registration System and the NPIRS statistical databases, which contain the RPMS workload data that your program exported.

The California Area Office must receive requests for adjustment by January 23rd, so that we can submit any requested adjustments to IHS HQE by February 3, 2004. If you have any questions about these figures, you may contact me at (916) 930-3981 ext 308, or the Information Services Coordinator, Jan Bergemann, at (916) 930-3981 ext 327.

Thank you for your support in helping to produce the most accurate user population estimates possible.

Stephen J. Mader, M.D.
Associate Director, Office of Public Health

Enclosures